



Jacquie Biloff Photo

DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Dakota Messenger

Adventist Education

Neil Biloff, President



Early homesteaders in the Dakota territory realized the absolute importance of education for the future of their newly-settled communities. So they went about setting aside two parcels of land in each township dedicated to the philosophy of building a school, hiring a teacher, housing the educator and training the young people in the community. It was a great plan and many, like myself, received their start in one of those early single-room schools, with a stove sitting in the middle of the room to keep us warm enough to study. Some days when it was severely cold we would end up pulling our desks closer to the stove or literally standing around it to keep warm. Insulation in the walls was limited.

My father, who was part of the school board, believed not only in education but also in Adventist Education. The nearest Adventist school was sixty miles away in Jamestown and a third of that trip was gravel. I know my parents talked many times about the feasibility of making the trip each day, but it seemed impossible. So my parents came up with the next best solution at the time, hire an Adventist teacher to teach in our little public school. But where would they stay? With us of course! Conklin Township in Stutsman County was a long ways from any community. There were no apartments, so in our little homestead house, that my grandfather had built some years earlier, one bedroom was dedicated to the Adventist teacher. Over the years teachers by the name of Ida (Flemmer) Lehmann, Jean (Lang) Carlson, Arla Kay Unruh and others all stayed at our house and taught the little country school offering an Adventist influence to the education I, my siblings and others received. I cannot say enough good about these and many other dear young women who were willing to live with families throughout North and South Dakota, not only to earn a living, but to be a witness for Christ and the Adventist faith. They sure made a positive influence on my life.

Today the Dakota Conference offers seven Adventist elementary schools around the Conference and one Academy near Bismarck, ND. Having had the privilege of attending an Adventist academy, college and graduate school, I can only say, "Thank You Jesus". Converted Adventist educators changed my life for the better.

SEPT 17

SE ACS Federation
Meeting will be held in Bowdle, SD at 10 a.m. CT

SEPT 18

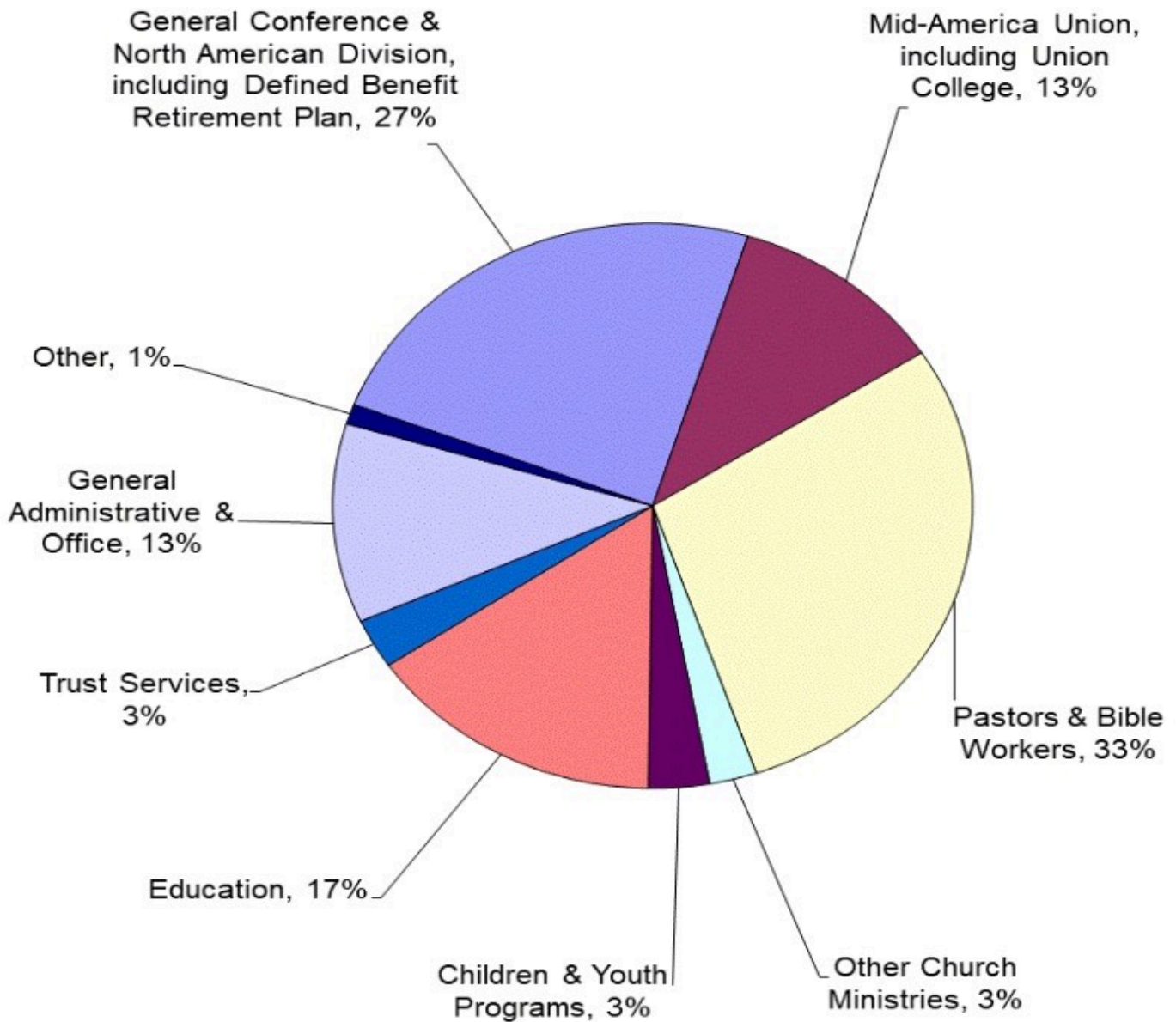
NW ACS Federation
Meeting will be held in Bowman, ND at 10 a.m. MT

SEPT 19

NE ACS Federation
Meeting will be held in Jamestown, ND at 10 a.m. CT

Dakota Conference 2016 Use of Tithe Funds

Percentages are based on 2016 tithe received. Since tithe reserves were used, total percentages exceed 100%.



Dakota Elementary Schools

Dakota Conference operates seven schools, kindergarten through twelfth grade. It is our objective to provide top quality education through passionate Adventist Christian educators for the glory of Jesus Christ.



Debra Eszler

Brentwood Adventist Christian is located in Bismarck, ND. Debra Eszler is the head teacher with eight students in grades 1 - 8.

Invitation Hill Adventist is located in Dickinson, ND. Janna Wright is the head teacher, teaching grades 3 - 8 with Betty Hay teaching K - 2. They are expecting twelve to fourteen students.



Janna Wright



Betty Hay



Courtney Bartlett



RaeLea Frishman

Hillcrest Adventist Elementary is located in Jamestown, ND.

RaeLea Frishman is the head teacher teaching upper grades 5 - 8 and Courtney Bartlett teaches grades 1 - 4. They are expecting nineteen students, with five new students.

Prairie Voyager Adventist Elementary is located in Grand Forks, ND. Leanne Erickson will be teaching four students in

grades 2, 6, and 8. She started teaching in 2003 at Prairie Voyager, taught three years, then took eleven years off to raise her children. Nine of those eleven years she was chairman of the school board.

Kelli Vigil

Jamie Howell

Leanne Erickson



Rapid City Adventist Elementary is located in Rapid City, SD. Kelli Vigil is the head teacher teaching upper grades and Jamie Howell is teaching K - 4. They have twenty prospective students.

Red River Adventist Elementary is located in Fargo, ND. Nicholas Gennick is the head teacher with three students in grades 4, 5 and 6.



Nicholas Gennick



Sioux Falls Adventist Elementary is located in Sioux Falls, SD. Elisa Wright is the head teacher with seven students in grades 1 - 8.

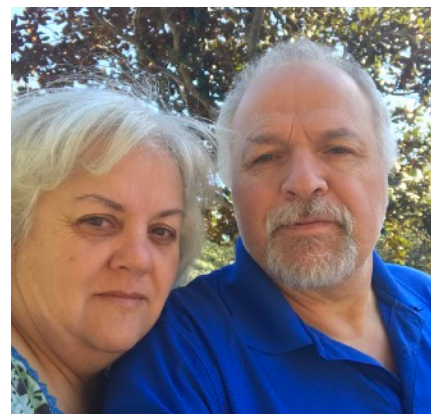
Elisa Wright

DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Sharon Heinrich

As we begin the new school year, we are welcoming four new staff to our DAA campus and family.

Anthony Oucharek is our new Principal. He has a background rich in education after serving in various teaching and administration positions in Florida, South Africa, Canada, and Washington. His wife, **Doreen**, will also be joining our team as Assistant Cafeteria and Office Worker. They are both excited to be here in North Dakota. "I look forward to getting to know what's important to the people who have worked so hard to build and maintain such an impressive school. Those people are truly a huge part of what makes DAA what it is."



Jared Gibson joins us as our new History teacher. Born in Lincoln, NE, he has also lived in California, South Dakota, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. He loves to read (especially about U.S. Presidents), playing sports, drama and acting, rooting for sports teams, and discovering good restaurants and films.

Stephen Staff comes to us from California. Currently finishing his Masters Degree in Student Life & Development, his dream is to help others grow and develop. "While working at La Sierra University I have gotten to see the impact that Student Affairs personnel get to

have in the lives of students and I want to continue to grow and develop so that I can help make the best experience for students going through Adventist education."



Dakota Adventist Academy is blessed to have strong financial support from alumni, constituency, parents, and friends. Your gifts make a real difference in the lives of our students. This past fiscal year which ended June 30, 2017 is a testament to the value you place on our young people and giving them the opportunity for a Seventh-day Adventist education. Your gifts for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 totaled \$644,433.

Annual Fund	\$162,635
Worthy Student Fund	\$ 97,543
Dorm Renovation	\$ 4,715
Unrestricted & Estate Gifts	\$355,950
Miscellaneous Restricted Gifts	\$ 23,590

Thank you for sharing what God has given you. Know that a life is enriched and changed because of your generosity.

Pastors on the Move

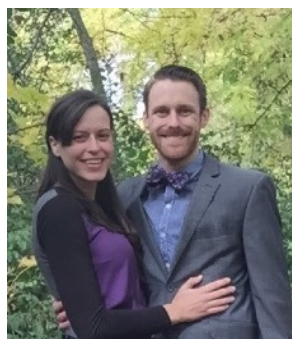
Jacquie Biloff



Pastor Nicholas & Christina Osborn pastored in the Dakotas before going to Andrews University. They both studied and received masters degrees while there. They have returned to the Dakotas and will be serving in the Dickinson district in North Dakota.



Kris de Bruin is originally from South Africa but has been in the states for several years. He started his career pursuing a law degree but heard the call of God into ministry and graduated from Walla Walla University. He is serving in the Bowdon/McClusky/New Home district of North Dakota.



Casey & Courtney Bartlett - Casey Bartlett is a pastor working in Jamestown and Fargo with the Dakota Conference's Adventist Campus Ministries. He met Courtney Gutknecht, who teaches at Hillcrest Adventist Elementary, and they were married June 25th.

Two pastoral couples were ordained during Campmeeting, **Richard & Katrina Kurtz** of the Pierre/Tolstoy/Mobridge district in South Dakota and **Chaplain Carlos & Damaris Hidalgo**, who is a chaplain for Altru Healthcare Systems located in Grand Forks, ND.



SRA/PVA/DAA Alumni Weekend

Honor Classes - 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013.

October 6 & 7, 2017. Info at 701.751.6177, Sharon

**Dakota
Adventist
Academy**

Black Hills Men's Retreat

Radical Prayer & Spirituality



September 15 - 17, 2017
Flag Mountain Camp

Keynote Speaker: Virgil Covel

Virgil Covel serves as the Ministerial Director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Covel was born and raised in Tennessee and has ministered in South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alberta and now works at the conference office in Topeka, KS.

Pastor Covel speaks from his own experience teaching the practices of prayer as they are revealed in the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy and the sanctuary. He leads congregations to experience the fulness of prayer; living experience of prayer in Jesus, which imparts wisdom, peace and guidance, not only to the individual but to the entire church.

Guest Speaker: Dan Gabbert

A native of North Dakota, Dan Gabbert has been preserved by God's grace through a journey of ranching and rodeoing, life in the entertainment world, literature evangelism, pastoral ministry, and mental and spiritual health coaching.

After 30 years of full-time Christian ministry and a masters degree in Christian Counseling, Dan is focusing his energies upon helping others understand and apply the principles of mental and spiritual restoration found in the Bible.

Featured Speaker: Cheri Peters

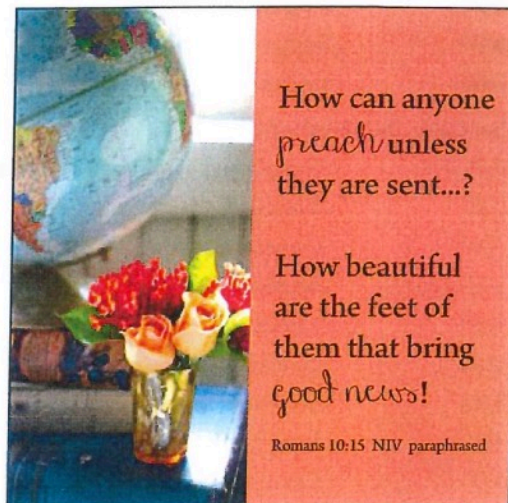


Peters is an international speaker, author, and radio program host. She is

the founder of True Step Ministries and has appeared on 3ABN television and radio. Cheri is a licensed psychiatric technician, specializing in addiction recovery.

Peters loves outdoor activities and working with horses. She is excited to share Jesus with the women of the Dakota Conference and to remind you that "He is crazy about you!"

**29th Annual Dakota Conference
Women's Retreat**



Send Me!

**Mandan ND
September 22-24, 2017**

Special Recognition

Jacquie Biloff



Elder Bryce Pascoe, ministerial secretary for the Dakota Conference, recognized Elder Darrel and Karen Lindensmith at the Pastors' meetings in Omaha, NE in July 2017 for their service to the Dakota Conference having served in the Dakotas for 27 years. They were missionaries to Japan for seven years prior to accepting a call to the Dakotas. Thank you, Lindensmiths, for your faithful and consistent service.

Photo by Neil Biloff

Pathfinder Camporee

Jacquie Biloff

Clubs from ten states descended upon Custer, South Dakota the week of July 26 - 29, 2017 under the theme of *Kindred Spirits*. They had the opportunity to earn pathfinder honors, visit museums, reptile gardens and Bear Country. On Sabbath, they marched through the tunnel of flags and worshipped in the amphitheater at the base of Mt. Rushmore.



Elder Neil Biloff welcomed the over 1,500 pathfinders and leaders to the Dakotas Wednesday, July 26th and Elder Loren Nelson led the Dakota pathfinders into the amphitheater for closing ceremonies July 29th.

Photos from Neil Biloff & KSNE Conference SmugBug



Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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<p>Aug</p> <p>13 DAA Registration</p> <p>18 - 19 Spiritual Feast Weekend - FMC</p> <p>21 First Day - Elementary Schools</p> <p>27 K-12 Board 10 am</p> <p>29 - 01 Outdoor School - NLC</p> <p>Sept</p> <p>04 Labor Day - Office Closed</p> <p>10 Executive Committee 10 am</p> <p>17 SE ACS Fed Meet - Bowdle, SD 10 am</p>	<p>C A L E N D A R</p>	<p>Sept, cont.</p> <p>18 NW ACS Fed Meet - Bowman, ND 10 am</p> <p>19 NE ACS Fed Meet - Jamestown, ND 10 am</p> <p>25 - 24 Women's Retreat - Mandan, ND</p> <p>Oct</p> <p>01 - 03 New in Ministry Training - DAA</p> <p>06 - 07 DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend</p> <p>08 K-12 Board 10 am</p> <p>14 Central Regional - Aberdeen, SD</p> <p>22 Executive Committee 10 am</p>
<p>President, Evangelism, ASI Neil Biloff</p> <p>VP of Admin, Youth Dir & Camps Loren Nelson III</p> <p>VP of Finance, Trust Director Arlo Heinrich</p> <p>Ministerial Director Bryce Pascoe</p> <p>Associate Treasurer Cindy Miller</p> <p>Children's Min, Pathfdrs, SS, ACS Open</p>	<p>Education Superintendent Open</p> <p>Receptionist, Adm Assistant, Clerk Jodi Dossenko</p> <p>ABC Manager, Adm Assistant Lynette Miller</p> <p>Communication, Treasury Clerk Jacquie Biloff</p> <p>Native Ministries Coordinator Deb Claymore-Cuny</p> <p>Trust Services Director Charles O'Hare</p>	<p>Trust Services Adm Assistant Julie Brude</p> <p>Maintenance Marlin Miller</p> <p>Pine Ridge Mission Director Bill Glassford</p> <p>Disaster Relief Director Phyllis Alexander</p> <p>Women's Ministries Director Brenna Kerr</p> <p>Men's Ministries Director Randy Rubbert</p>
<p>The Dakota Messenger is a publication of the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Please send newsletter submissions to Jacquie Biloff (jbiloff@icloud.com) or in care of the Dakota Conference, 7200 N Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58503.</p>		